

TALON

Operation Joint Forge
Saturday, January 20, 2001

Task Force Eagle
www.tfeagle.army.mil



**New Miricina Bridge Brings
Communities Together**

**US and EAF Soldiers Destroy Weapons
Military Working Dogs
SFOR-IPTF Conference**

CATCH YOUR ATTITUDE

Two construction workers sat down to have their lunch. One opened his lunch box and angrily screamed, "I can't believe it, baloney again! I hate baloney sandwiches. This is the fourth time this week I've had baloney. I can't stand baloney!"

His friend tried to settle him down. "Take it easy, why don't you just let your wife know that you don't like baloney sandwiches? Ask her to fix something else.", his friend said. "Wife?" Replied the first, "I make my own lunch."

The fact is, most of the baloney in our lives, we have put there ourselves.

What is an attitude?

It is the 'advance man' of our true selves.

Its roots are inward but its fruits are outward.

It is our best friend or our worst enemy.

It is more honest and more consistent than our words.

It is an outward look based on past experiences.

It is a thing, which draws people to us or repels them.

It is never content until it is expressed.

It is the librarian of our past.

It is the speaker of our present.

It is the prophet of our future.

Every action we take has a motive. Most of our motives come natural like personal motives, selfish motives, motive to capitalize, and motives to get ahead. We often promote our agenda, our own personal gain, and ourselves. Still other motives are what many people would call unnatural, some of us see them as super-natural. What I have come to call a life-style of being other-motivated, other-centered living.

It is becoming clearer and clearer to me that true abundant life, is about other-centered living. As I read the book of Ephesians and Philippians, I am most impressed with Paul's effort to help us lift our eyes off our selves, and on to others. Not a popular life style for any day, certainly not today. My hope and prayer is that at the end of our time together we'll have renewed hope and passion for other-centered living.

Philippians 2:3-4 *"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests but also to the interest of others."*

The good news is that attitude is caught, and we can choose the attitude that we have in life. Toward our family, our friends, our colleagues at work...in the church. The one true compass that we can depend on to reveal improper attitude is God. When we spend unhurried time in his presence, in his word, he moves us upward and onward!

Thoughts For The Day

Saturday: The devil has many tools, but the lie is the handle that fits them all.

Sunday: Waiting for an answer to prayer is often part of the answer.

Monday: Give some people an inch of authority, and they think they are rulers.

Tuesday: He who puts God first will be happy at last.

Wednesday: Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important.

Thursday: Minds are like parachutes; they function only when open.

Friday: Having a sharp tongue can cut your own throat.

By Chaplain (Capt.) Ron Cooper
TF1-64 AR Chaplain

Commander
Multinational Division - North
Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp

Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Scott P. Lopez
762-3353

**Public Affairs Noncommissioned
Officer in Charge**
Master Sgt. Brian D. O'Connors
762-3353

Editorial Staff

Editor/Webmaster
Staff Sgt. Daniel W. Schiff
762-5230

**Assistant Editors/
Layout and Design**
Spc. Matt Burrell
Spc. Marc F. Marin
Spc. Danny C. Martin Jr.
762-5233

Staff Writers

Eagle Base/Camp Comanche
Sgt. David Lietz
Spc. Christopher D. Carney
Spc. Marc F. Marin
762-8208

Camp Dobol
Sgt. Noreen L. Feeney
764-1012

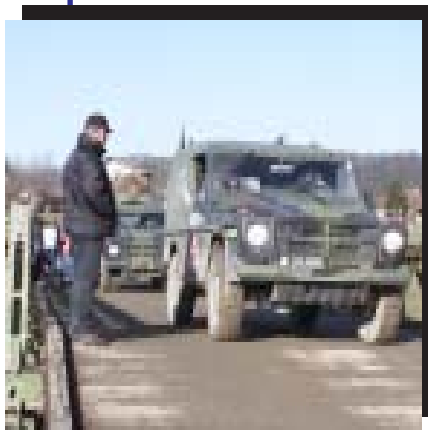
Camp McGovern
Spc. Jodie Moore
763-1771

The *Talon* is produced in the interest of the servicemembers of Task Force Eagle. The *Talon* is an Army-funded magazine authorized for members of the U.S. Army overseas under the provision of AR 360-1. Contents of the *Talon* are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Task Force Eagle.

The *Talon* is published weekly by the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Task Force Eagle Public Affairs Office, Eagle Base, Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina APO AE 09789. Telephone MSE 551-5230, Sprint 762-5230. E-mail: talonpancoic@email-tc3.5sigcmd.army.mil. Printed by PrintCom Tuzla, BiH. Circulation: 5,500.

Visit the *Talon* and other Bosnia and Herzegovina related items on the Task Force Eagle Home page:
www.tfeagle.army.mil

CONTENTS



ON THE COVER

8

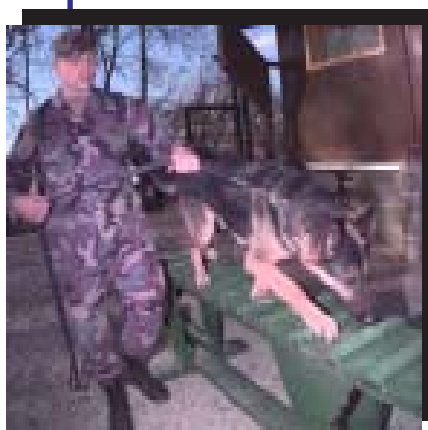
NORDPOL and Task Force Eagle Division Engineers complete a bridge that connects the towns of Porjecina and Miricina. (Photo by Spc. Matt Burrell)



US AND EAF SOLDIERS DESTROY WEAPONS

6

Soldiers from the U.S. 363rd Ordnance Company and EAF 260th Support Battalion gather in Velika Ribnica to destroy weapons collected through the Harvest program. (Photo by Sgt. Keith McGrew, Combat Camera)



MILITARY WORKING DOGS RECEIVE NEW HOME

11

The new kennel for military working dogs opened for business Jan. 8 at Eagle Base, providing dogs as well as their handlers with new, improved facilities. (Photo by Sgt. David Lietz)

CG's corner-----	4
Air Traffic Control TOA-----	9
SFOR-IPTF conference-----	10
Green to Gold scholarships-----	10
Soldier's spotlight-----	12

MISSION ESSENTIAL TASK LIST (METL) DEVELOPMENT...

By Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp

Commander, Multinational Division (North)

In my last article I spent a good amount of time discussing the manner by which we sustain proficiency by conducting training at all levels that support our higher headquarters mission. So, the next question is where do units derive their missions? The answer is found through the use of the Mission Essential Task List (METL) development process.

Field Manual 25-101, *Battle Focused Training*, describes this process at length and is what commanders and their staffs use as a framework to accurately and efficiently conduct this process. According to FM 25-101, the METL "is an unconstrained statement of tasks required to accomplish a wartime mission."



Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp

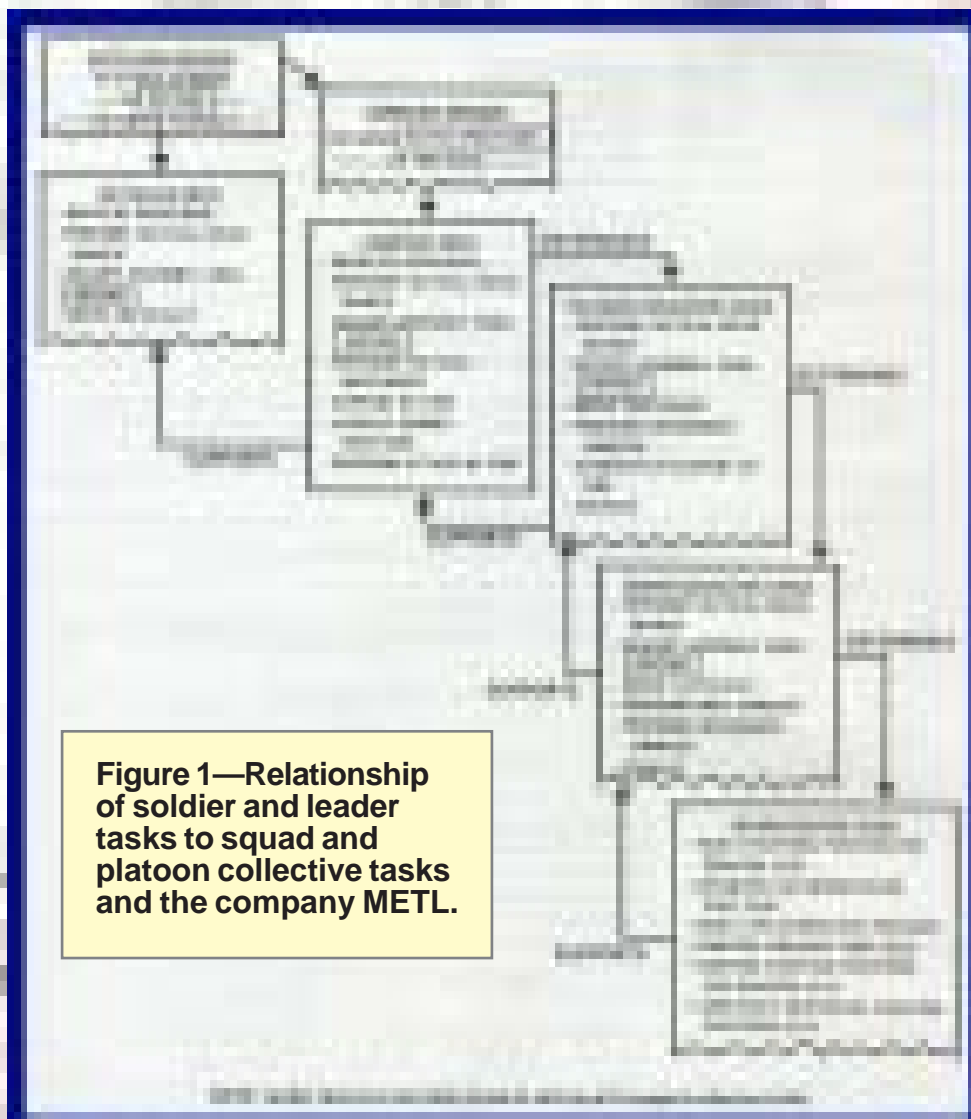


Figure 1—Relationship of soldier and leader tasks to squad and platoon collective tasks and the company METL.

The METL is tailored to each organization and can encompass security and stabilization operational (SASO) environments. The METL development process is conducted from company/troop/battery-level and maintains a few very important characteristics.

Characteristics of the METL development process.

The METL must support and complement the METL of the next higher headquarters. This concept is known as "nesting" where tasks are directly linked to and restated in each level's METL. This adds cohesiveness to the missions at each level of the organization.

The METL must be understood by key noncommissioned officers in order to integrate soldier tasks into the METL development process. NCOs provide individual soldier task input during the development of this cornerstone document.

Commanders must create a "team-approach" to METL development by involving subordinate leaders at all levels. The METL development process should never be done in a vacuum, rather encompass leaders at all levels determining those requisite tasks required to support the higher headquarters METL.

The steps of the METL development process.

The commander receives the higher headquarters METL and

thoroughly analyzes the missions to identify the specified tasks (tasks that are specifically stated to the commander) and implied tasks (tasks that aren't stated, but must be accomplished to fulfill the mission). The commander also incorporates any war plans or external directives that are required of his unit.

After this analysis, the commander restates his mission. The restated mission statement is the mission that he has been told to accomplish by his higher headquarters, incorporative of any further mission essential tasks that he believes he also must accomplish to achieve the directed end state.

The commander then selects additional critical tasks, which complement and support the METL tasks he has been given. These critical tasks then become his organization's METL.

Once the METL is developed the commander submits it to his higher headquarters for approval. Again, we see "nesting" occurs where; each task identified is stated and thusly directly supports the next higher commander's critical task.

Remember that METL development occurs no lower than the company level; the company commander can now conduct his analysis to identify the supporting collective tasks that support his METL which is nested throughout the METL of his higher headquarters. This process is called the "operations-to-collective task" crosswalk.

The operation-to-collective task crosswalk process.

Once the commander receives approval of his METL, he begins the process of accurately linking his METL to collective and individual tasks for which he uses to develop codified training plans. The commander uses the many doctrinal references, in particular, the Army Training and Evaluation Program (ARTEP) texts and mission training plans (MTP) to develop the collective tasks necessary to support the METL tasks he has identified. **Figure 1**, which is excerpted from FM 25-101, provides an illustration of how this accomplished. Also, the commander identifies and incorporates any individual soldier tasks that he believes supports the METL tasks. Noncommissioned officers at every level play an integral part in determining which individual tasks are most essential to accomplishing the tasks identified in the METL.

During training, the commander uses the MTP, which provides the task, conditions, and standards for the respective tasks and are the mechanism in determining proficiency. The MTP uses the task and evaluation outline (T&EO) which states the specific leader and critical tasks that must receive a "GO" indicating proficiency in that particular task. During training exercise the commander would use these documents to accurately determine and evaluate the degree of proficiency his unit is achieving (See **Figure 2**, excerpted from FM 25-101). The T&EO is compiled and an overall

Figure 2—Example of a Task and Evaluation Outline (T & EO)

objective assessment is given to those collective tasks. If the commander receives "GOs" in those required tasks, he is assured that he is adequately prepared to accomplish that mission with a high degree of success.

If any NO-GOs are received, the commander can retrain on those tasks until the required standard is met. This is known as iteration training. Units conduct iteration training to reinforce those tasks done to standard and train further on those that require further training. Although the T&EOs relies on GOs and NO-GOs, to gauge proficiency, it remains the commander's assessment to determine collective tasks proficiencies and his overall assessment of his unit's ability to conduct his real-world mission. This is one of most important missions of the commander.

The METL development and subsequent operation-to-collective tasks crosswalk links together the manner by which each unit accomplishes its mission supporting the achievement of the higher mission. There is no greater example of this process than what we do everyday in Multinational Division (North). As just explained, by achieving the standard during the conduct of your missions, you directly support the missions of your higher headquarter many layers upward. You should be proud of the fact that as you continue in your METL-derived duties, you ensure that our division accomplishes its mission everyday to build a safe and secure environment in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Rock of the Marne!



UNLOAD—(from left to right) Chief Petty Officer Pat McLean, Sgt. Doug Terbush, Navy Lt. Doug Czarnecki unload their equipment.



COLD—Soldiers of the EAF 260th Battalion (above) endure cold and sleet to complete the job of destroying over 700 pieces of ordnance collected.



US, EAF EOD TEAMS SHRUG OFF ADVERSE WEATHER TO DESTROY 700 PIECES OF ORDNANCE

Story by Maj. Judith A. Gardner
318th PCH, Eagle Base
Photos by Sgt. Keith McGrew
Combat Camera

As part of the ongoing Harvest program, members of the 363rd Ordnance Company (EOD) joined Entity Armed Forces (EAF) soldiers from the 260th Support Battalion, II Corps, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (VF-B) on Jan. 9 in Vukovar as they destroyed over 700 pieces of ordnance collected by the EAF.

Included in the destruction were 100 mortar rounds, 66 rifle grenades, 150 hand grenades, 2 rockets, one land mine and 300 fusees.

"As always, Lt. Faud and his soldiers are a pleasure to work with," said Capt. Russell Payne, commander, 363rd Ord. Co. (EOD). "This is the third cooperative blast we have done with them and they continue to impress us with their outstanding work ethic. The weather has been worse, yet all personnel were motivated and determined to complete the mission at hand," he said.

In addition to planned, cooperative blasts, the 363rd Ord. Co. may be called in on short notice. "We respond anytime we are alerted to find that would threaten SFOR personnel or property or upon by local officials for assistance," said Capt. Payne.

The Harvest program is a cooperative effort between the U.S. Forces, the EAF and local officials that encourages the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina to turn in any illegal or unwanted weapons or ordnance and report ordnance to the proper authorities for collection and destruction.

Its goal is to foster and maintain a "safe, secure environment" throughout the country by getting the "military-grade weapons and ordnance out of the hands of the civilians and into military hands," said Capt. Michael Justice, plans officer, Joint Military Command (JMC).

Although many illegal and unwanted weapons and munitions are found on the streets and in people's homes, every weapon and round turned in shows that the program is working. Last year, 3,000 weapons and over two million rounds of ammunition were turned in in the Multi-National Division (North) area of operations. 1,000 land mines were identified and neutralized, over 10,000 rocket propelled grenades were turned in and over 4,200 hand grenades and explosives were disabled or destroyed.

"Every citizen has the responsibility to make Bosnia-Herzegovina safer," said Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp, MND (N) Commander, in a recent press conference. "Every weapon or munitions turned in may save a life."

CHECK—Lt. Czarnecki (left) checks and makes sure he has all of his equipment.

FF
ER;

NCE

of the 363rd
forces (EAF)
Army of the
Bosnian
by the EAF.
the grenades,
S.
work with,”
D). “This is
they continue
er could not
dedicated to

. Co. (EOD)
anything is
when called

Stabilization
le of Bosnia-
ammunition
lection and

environment”
weapons and
ry control,”
Commission

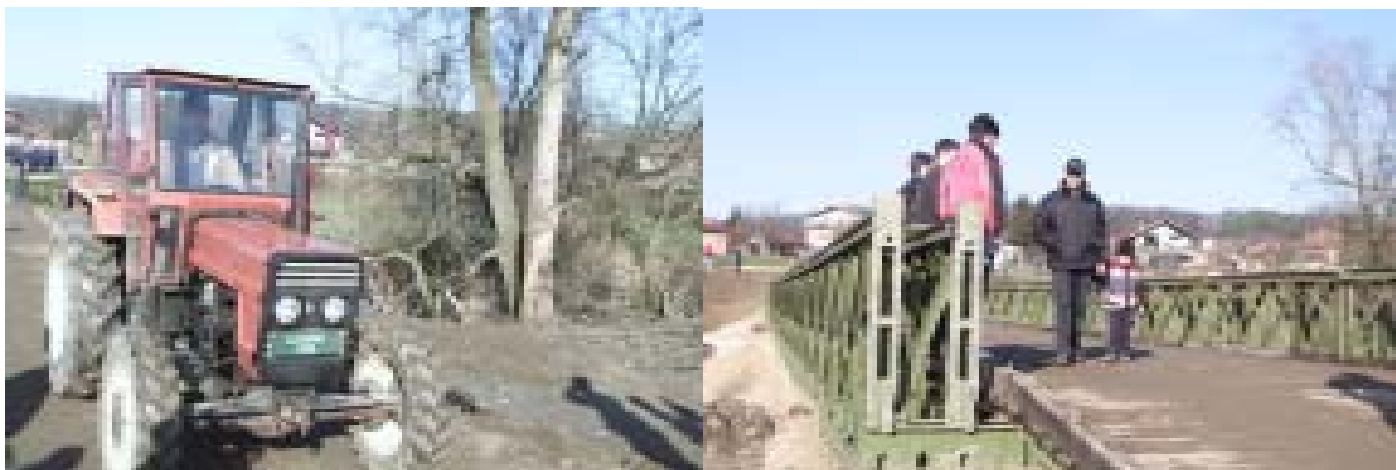
tions remain
d munitions
alone, over
ere collected
In addition,
00 hand and
kilograms of

Herzegovina
ing General,
hat is turned



FOCUS—Capt. Russ Payne ignores the cold and snow as he focuses on the job at hand, while (below) gunnery mate chief McLean examines an explosive through the shearing snow.





NEW BRIDGE—A tractor (left) from one of the local communities makes use of the new bridge, while locals don't hesitate to test the new bridge (right) soon after its opening.

BRIDGE CONNECTS COMMUNITIES

Story and photos
By Spc. Matt Burrell
318th PCH, Eagle Base

The relations of the communities Porjecina and Miricina were resurrected when the combined forces of Nordic Polish Battlegroup and the Task Force Eagle Division Engineers completed a Bailey bridge in Miricina on Jan. 5.

The old bridge connecting the two communities was destroyed during the war, and in September the Miricina Project began with Stabilization Force engineers conducting all the necessary reconnaissance. "Before we built it we had to make sure the area is safe," said Lt. Col. Kevin Beerman, Division Engineers Commander. After the reconnaissance,

SPEECH—Dusko Milotic, the Petrovo mayor, makes a speech at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Polish engineers demined the area with a Hydrema Flail, and on Dec. 11 Finnish engineers began repairing the roads and prepared two abutments which would connect the two parts of the Bailey bridge.

The opening of the bridge, which has a Military Load Capacity of 40 tons, was christened by the speeches of local leaders in the two communities including Senaid Sakovic, mayor of Gracanica, and Dusko Milotic, mayor of Petrovo.

"Today's release of the bridge is more than symbolic; it makes possible all cooperation," said Milotic.

When the bridge was destroyed so was the relationship between the two communities. Now that the bloodshed has ended, it appears the hatred has as well.

"Everything has been forgotten," said Sadmira Nakic, who lives in Miricina. "I think it's (the bridge) a good thing."

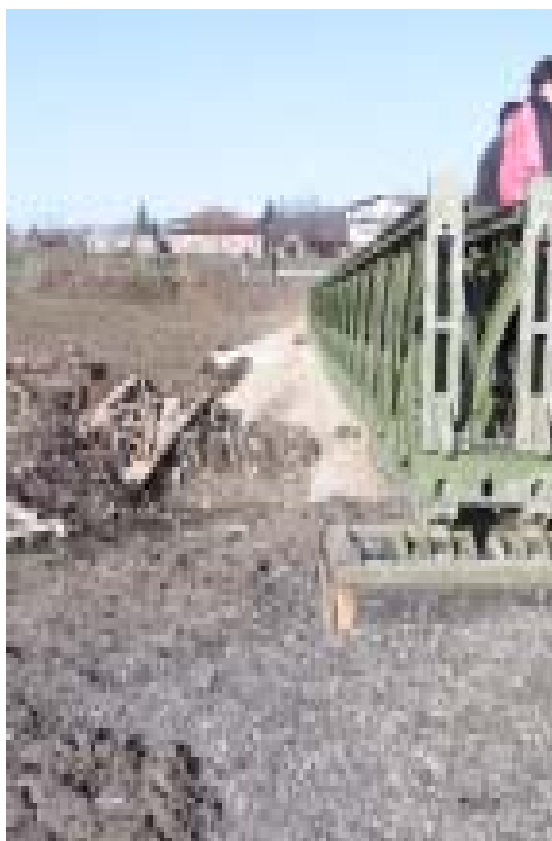
Not only did the bridge reforge a

friendship between the two communities, but gave them both a convenience rarely seen during the war.

"We're kind of a dead end and the bridge opens us to the world. Before the war I went to work on that bridge, but then

it was only a small pedestrian bridge. When the bridge was destroyed I had to walk nine kilometers to get to work, now I only have to walk two," said Milan Kostic, a resident of Porjecina who went to elementary school in Miricina.

The bridge's ownership was transferred to the Gracanica and Petrovo municipalities. Afterward many Porjecina and Miricina citizens could



CRUMBLES—Remnants of the old bridge lie on the river bank in the shadow of the new bridge.

be seen rejoicing with one another and some took time to enjoy a simple but long-awaited handshake.

"We would like to thank SFOR for supporting us, I hope we will have more of these projects together," said Sakovic.



GUIDON— Capt. Chisolm (left) passes the 1st Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment (Airborne) guidon to Lt. Col. Mudd at the change of command ceremony Jan. 11 at Comanche Base (left). Capt. Chisolm, Lt. Col. Mudd, and Capt. Coyle stand tall during the ceremony (right).

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL COMPANY HOLDS CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

Story and photos

By Sgt. David Lietz

318th PCH, Eagle Base

Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment (Airborne) held a change of command ceremony Jan. 11 at Camp Comanche.

Capt. Donna Coyle, incoming commander of Delta Company, received the guidon from the outgoing commander, Capt. Marvin Chisolm.

"It's great to see a lot of familiar faces from Fort Bragg today as we are changing command. Both are outstanding captains in their own right," said Lt. Col. Joseph P. Mudd, commander, 1st Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment.

"We welcome Captain Donna Coyle, who has provided outstanding support to 3d Infantry Division aviation. The opportunity to command is precious. Remember there is no greater responsibility than command," said Lt. Col. Mudd.

After the traditional passing of the guidon, Capt. Chisolm spoke to the soldiers he commanded for the past two years.

"It was a great two years. I really enjoyed it. It's tough to go. I really liked dealing with

the soldiers," he said. "They got a mission, put a lot of effort into it and made each mission a success."

Capt. Chisolm, a CH-47 (Chinook) pilot, will go to his next duty station at Fort Eustis, Va. He will be working in the S3 office (operations) for an Army Reserve Civil Military Cooperation battalion. He will also have the opportunity to do some flying.

Capt. Chisolm is a distinguished military graduate of Hampton University. His awards include the Army Commendation medal with two oak leaf clusters and the Army Achievement Medal. He is a graduate of the Air Assault and Airborne schools.

Incoming commander Capt. Coyle spoke to the soldiers of Delta Company.

"They are a great bunch of soldiers — hard workers. We can't fly without air traffic controllers. The service they provide is invaluable," she said.

Capt. Coyle is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University. She has received the Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster and the Army Commendation medal and is also a graduate of the Air Assault and Airborne schools.

REFLECTIVE VEST SAFETY

Winter is finally upon us, and that means shorter days and longer nights. The sun is now receding behind the horizon before 1800. That, along with wet road conditions, makes things hazardous for runners and drivers alike.

The runner should help

both the driver and himself by wearing a reflective vest when running early in the morning or after dusk. The vest lets the driver know where the runner is, and gives him ample time to react. Let's all be safe, and have an accident free deployment.

PX CLOSINGS FOR ANNUAL INVENTORY

Camp Comanche PX— Jan. 25
Camp McGovern PX— Jan. 27
Air Force BX— Jan. 29
Eagle Base PX— Jan. 30
Camp Dobol PX— Jan. 31

SFOR-IPTF CONFERENCE PRODUCES RESULTS

Story and photos

By Sgt. David Lietz

318th PCH, Eagle Base

A Stabilization Force - International Police Task Force (SFOR-IPTF) conference was held here at Pegasus Hall Jan. 10 to discuss the previous year's accomplishments.

IPTF commanders of Tuzla, Dobo, and Brcko districts delivered status reports on their jurisdictions and presented their goals and plans for the next six months.

Multinational Division (North) sponsored the conference, chaired by Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp, commander, MND (N).

There are 1,800 IPTF officers working in Bosnia-Herzegovina to help train, monitor and advise local police in developing and putting in place a professional, disciplined police force. Last year, IPTF built four new police stations and hopes to build eight more before the end of 2001.

"One of the things I would like to see come out of this meeting is to find a better way to exchange information," said Maj. Gen. Sharp. IPTF Commissioner Vincent Coeurderoy agreed, saying that, "It's clear we have to exchange information."

The IPTF focus on democratic style police operations follows 70 years of policing in Bosnia-Herzegovina when the "politics came first and people came second," said George W. Biernesser, commander, IPTF Tuzla region.

Now, IPTF officers representing 46 countries, including five police officers from

China, are advising, monitoring and training local police as they move towards implementing a democratic police structure.

They also monitor the treatment of returnees by local police. And with borders to monitor, and strikes, civil unrest and contentious convictions to face in the next thirty days in MND (N) alone, they appreciate the advice and cooperation with SFOR.

"With the world or European standard for policing, we are putting the people first. We are putting the trust back in the people," said the 25-year police veteran, Biernesser. Training is a major part of the role of IPTF.

"One of the strong points here is the training of local police," said Biernesser.

Academic courses like community policing, crime scene investigation and anti-terrorism tactics are being taught to local police. Public awareness campaigns have been started. The slogan "your police-serving you" is advertised in local media and Germany donated 100 sets of protective suits for the police in the Brcko district.

"The local police didn't have any protective equipment during the recent demonstrations," said Henning Jensen, IPTF District commander, Brcko. Some of the local police do not have sidearms. And



POINT— Maj. Gen. Walter Sharp, commander, MND (N) and Brig. Gen. Vincent Coeurderoy, IPTF commissioner (right) discuss a point at the SFOR-IPTF conference Jan. 10.

half of their fleet of police cars don't operate. But things are improving for local Brcko police. They have applied to the provincial government for the purchase of 20 new police cars and are building a new police department. Commander Jensen also talked about the status of Arizona Market. A new Arizona Market will stand north of the old market. The emphasis now is for the vendors to be registered and pay taxes.

"What may happen is they will close down and find another job or move to another region," said Jensen.

"The importance of the conference is bringing the key leaders - IPTF, local police and MND (N), together to trade ideas on how we can best support each other," said Capt. Todd Kuehnlein, deputy provost marshal, MND (N). "We are all working for the same goals for this country; to insure a safe and secure environment."

"This was a very productive meeting. It's the first step towards a strong relationship with IPTF. We hope this will keep us moving in the right direction," said Lt. Col. Thomas Tatum, provost marshal.

The conference may become a quarterly event.

GREEN TO GOLD SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Story by Maj. Judith A. Gardner

318th PCH, Eagle Base

Eight two-year Green to Gold college scholarships are now available to 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized) soldiers assigned or attached to Task Force Eagle and Task Force Stewart. The deadline for packet submission is Jan. 31, with the board tentatively scheduled for Feb. 19.

The Green to Gold program seeks talented, motivated young enlisted soldiers who want to leave active duty, enroll in the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) and become commissioned officers. To compete for a scholarship, you must:

- be under 27 years of age on June 30 of the projected year of commissioning, with a one-year extension allowed for each year of active military service up to a maximum of three years.
- have completed a maximum of two years active duty as well as three months active duty for every one month specialized training received.
- have a GT score greater than 110.

- have passed the Army Physical Fitness Test within the last six months.

- have completed a minimum of 54 semester or 81 quarter hours in an approved baccalaureate degree program with two years remaining to receive a degree.

- be accepted by the intended school as a junior graduating in two years.

- be accepted by the Professor of Military Science at the intended school into their Army ROTC program.

A scholarship will pay tuition up to \$16,000 per year for two years as well as \$510 per year for books and supplies. A cadet will also receive \$200 per month for up to ten months per year.

For an application packet and further eligibility requirements and obligations, contact Capt. Gwendolyn Lee, chief, plans and operations, 3d ID (M) at 762-2174.

For more information about ROTC scholarships, visit the ROTC website at www.armyrotc.com, or the Cadet Command at www.rotc.monroe.army.mil

K-9s RECEIVE NEW HOME

Story and photos

By Sgt. David Lietz

318th PCH, Eagle Base

The new kennel for military working dogs here opened for business Jan. 8.

The structure was built in six weeks by Brown and Root contractors.

"We are really pleased with the new facility," said Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery Ridenour, kennel master, 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized). "It's the same size as the previous kennel but more user friendly."

Col. Barry J. Fowler, chief of staff, 3d ID (M), and Sgt. 1st Class Ridenour cut the ribbon to open the new facility. Col. Fowler remembered a time when the military working dogs were housed in tents. Now, all eight working dogs (six German Shepherds and two Belgian Malinois) will stay in the brand new facility, complete with 20 new cages and two dog showers. In the old kennel, there was no capability for washing the dogs, no food preparation area to prepare their meals, and no storage area.

"Now our office and living area for the handlers is all located in the same compound," said Sgt. 1st Class Ridenour.

"I think this is a great facility for the dogs. The dogs have to be rested and healthy so they can do their mission," said Col. Fowler. "There's no greater deterrent to someone trying to get in the fence than a barking dog."

Two visiting International Police Task Force K-9 officers, Mr. Bill Zielinski and Mr. James Kangas, also had high praise for the new facility.

"This is a really nice facility. Dogs are just like people. You treat them right and

they work right," said Mr. Kangas. He added that dogs play an important role when it comes to tracking and apprehending lawbreakers.

"It's an excellent facility," said Mr. Zielinski. "Most kennels only have a tub and a garden hose to wash the dogs."

The working dogs should adapt quickly to their new kennel. "For them, it's more curiosity for the new surroundings," said Sgt. 1st Class Ridenour.

German Shepherds and Belgium Malinois are the dogs of choice for the K-9 corps. "The dogs have to have a prey-kill drive, meet certain height and weight requirements and be able to adapt to changing environments," said Sgt. 1st Class Ridenour. Short haired dogs, like Rottweilers and Doberman Pinschers, don't easily adapt to changing environmental conditions and are used less frequently for military K-9 units. At Eagle Base there is always a dog team on duty. A handler and a dog together work a 12-hour shift. Each handler is 100 percent responsible for his or her dog.

"We're available for any type of explosive, narcotics or patrol mission," said Sgt. 1st Class Ridenour. Perhaps that's why it's important to have a good facility to keep the working dogs rested, healthy and ready for action.

"It's a big improvement over what we had before," said Sgt. James Bockelmann, 42nd Military Police Detachment, Fort Bragg, N.C. "It's like moving from tent city to Fifth Avenue. This is like the Carlton."

Staff Sgt. Anthony Bly, 163d Military Police Detachment, Fort Campbell, Ky., and his dog, Alan, attended the opening. Staff Sgt. Bly likes the new facility and added it's important to have a clean environment for the dogs, and also to keep them out of the weather.



OPENING— Sgt. 1st Class Ridenour, kennelmaster, HHC, 3d ID (M) (left) and Col. Barry Fowler, chief of staff, 3d ID (M) (right) cut the ribbon at the opening of the new kennel January 8.



SIT— Sgt. James Bockelmann, 42nd Military Police Detachment, Fort Bragg, N.C and his dog, Uvarted, prepare to train at the new kennel Jan. 8.

"Out in the elements, the dogs can be vulnerable to health problems. If a dog develops health problems, it takes them out of the mission."

Staff Sgt. Bly also offered a friendly reminder for anyone approaching a military working dog and a handler.

"They are not pets. They are working dogs. In essence, they are military police with four legs. People should approach a military dog in a professional manner and not look at it as a pet."

Stabilization Force military working dogs are indeed professional soldiers. Each have their picture on a SFOR identification card. They also earn coins, of which Uvarted, Sgt. Bockelmann's partner, has six. His prize coin is from the Secretary of Defense.

"The dog teams have a bond closer than a lot of soldiers. That bond is very important. A dog's whole life revolves around the handler. With the new facility, it gives the team (handler and dog) a better environment. Each dog handler knows that his dog is living in an excellent facility," said Sgt. 1st Class Ridenour.



LOOKING TO

CONTINUE THE AIRBORNE TRADITION

Story and photos

By **Spc. Jodie Moore**

318th PCH, Camp McGovern

There is a great deal of tradition that comes with the maroon beret that Army airborne units wear. There is also a lot of family tradition that comes with the donning of the maroon beret for Pfc. Gary V. Romero, 129th Postal Company from Fort Bragg, N.C.

Pfc. Romero can tell a story on how he and his siblings are continuing in the tradition of the military and airborne soldiers and the significance of the maroon beret for his family.

Pfc. Romero came up around the military his whole life. His father was an airborne Army paratrooper.

Growing up, Pfc. Romero can recall his mother taking him and his siblings to watch his father execute flawless jumps.

"I've wanted to go Airborne every since I was a child. My father was airborne. I wanted to follow in his footsteps," said Pfc. Romero.

The time spent watching their father jump and growing up around military installations all left a lasting impression on the Romero children.

"We were excited when we saw him jump. It looked fun and dangerous. We knew we would eventually be in the Army," said Pfc. Romero of himself and his siblings.

Pfc. Romero and his brother would go home from watching their father and reenact their father's parachute jumps.

"Sometimes me and my brother would take a sheet and jump off my mom's bed and pretend the sheet was a parachute," he said.

An accident that required his brother to get ten stitches from the pretend jumps put an end to bedroom jumps. It didn't, however, put an end to the dream for the siblings.

Pfc. Romero said it was a foregone conclusion that him and his siblings would end up in the military.

"We knew we would eventually join the Army. I just happened to be older so I ended up coming in the Army first," he said.

Pfc. Romero's brother, Gabriel D. Romero, is currently in AIT (Advanced Individual Training) for military intelligence school. After AIT he is scheduled to go to Airborne school. Their younger sister, Jewel A. Romero, is currently in high school. After

graduation she plans to enroll in West Point. Airborne wings are definitely in the youngest sibling's future too, said Pfc. Romero.

Airborne means more to Pfc. Romero than upholding the family tradition. He longs for the sense of camaraderie that airborne soldiers have - the camaraderie that his father shared with fellow soldiers.

Pfc. Romero's father often talked to him and his younger siblings about the sense of achievement he felt with each jump. Romero longs for the rush of the jump that he often heard his father describe.

"There is no other feeling like it, especially the first time," said Pfc. Romero.

Pfc. Romero's father not only set the military example for his children to lead; he paved the way for Pfc. Romero to enlist.

"When I first came into the Army my father was my recruiter," said Pfc. Romero.

After a twenty year military career, Pfc. Romero's father recently retired from the Army.

Despite growing up with an airborne recruiting father, Pfc. Romero, didn't elect to have an airborne contract.

It wasn't until Pfc. Romero received his first duty assignment at Fort Bragg that he started to recall his childhood dream of becoming an airborne soldier.

Pfc. Romero said being at Fort Bragg just brought to mind all the childhood dreams he shared with his siblings. He said that while at Fort Bragg he would look up and see soldiers jumping, hear the stories of the soldiers, and watch the planes taking off. This solidified his childhood desire to become airborne.

Before Pfc. Romero can earn the right to wear his airborne wings he must first prepare for airborne school. He is using his extra time here to prepare for the airborne packet he will submit when he returns to Fort Bragg. He spends his free time here working on increasing his PT scores. Pfc. Romero also takes classes offered here by the University of Maryland. He has a goal to obtain and history to uphold.

"I want to jump like all the military greats before me," said Pfc. Romero.

And he wants to establish a family legacy.

MAIL— Pfc. Romero stamps a customer's letter prior sending it out. Pfc. Romero looks to follow in his father's footsteps and become Airborne qualified.

